

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 482

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 895

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE ELECTIONS

1. I SAW PRESIDENT MARCOS JANUARY 17, JUST AFTER HE HAD
ANNOUNCED THAT ELECTIONS OF INTERIM ASSEMBLY (BATASANG PEMBANSANG)
WOULD BE HELD APRIL 2. HE HAD THESE COMMENTS TO MAKE ABOUT
ELECTION PROCESS:

2. LOCAL DISTRICTS (BARANGAYS) WOULD CHOOSE CANDIDATES TO
RUN ON REGIONAL BASIS. TWELVE SEATS WOULD BE RESERVED FOR
CANDIDATES TO BE SELECTED BY APPROVED ORGANIZATIONS FOR YOUTH,
LABOR, AND FARM CONSTITUENCIES.

3. HE WAS CONSULTING WITH POLITICIANS OF OLD SOCIETY WITH
INTENTION DISCOURAGE THEM FROM RUNNING FOR ASSEMBLY. HE SAID
HE DID NOT WISH TO ELIMINATE OPPOSITION, BUT WISHED BRING
"NEW BLOOD" INTO ASSEMBLY. ONLY ONE SO FAR WHO SEEMED
DETERMINED RUN WAS FORMER SPEAKER LAUREL. (THREE DAYS
BEFORE HE HAD MENTIONED FORMER SENATOR ROXAS POSSIBLE
CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER; IN LATEST CONVERSATION
HE SAID ROXAS WAS QTE HAVING DIFFICULTY FINDING CONSTITUENCY.
UNQTE)

4. WIDE CONSTITUENCY WOULD VOTE, INCLUDING QTE ILLITERATES
UNQTE WHO WOULD HAVE RIGHTS, UNDER LAW, TO ASK RESPONSIBLE
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PERSON TO ASSIST THEM IN VOTING.

5. CAMPAIGN PERIOD WOULD BE DECLARED, LASTING POSSIBLY AS
LONG AS 45 DAYS. MARTIAL LAW RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE LIFTED IN
ORDER TO PERMIT FREE CAMPAIGN.

7. PEOPLE OF METRO MANILA MAY INSIST THAT FIRST LADY BE

CANDIDATE. HE DOES NOT WISH THIS SINCE SHE WOULD HAVE TO STEP DOWN FROM HER POSITION AS GOVERNOR OF METRO MANILA. ALSO, HE SAID, PEOPLE OF HER PROVINCE, LEYTE, WOULD BE UNHAPPY THAT SHE WAS NOT RUNNING THERE.

8. HE DOES NOT INTEND ACTIVELY TO CAMPAIGN ON BEHALF OF ANY SLATE EXCEPT THAT IN HIS HOME PROVINCE IN THE NORTH.

9. COMMENT: PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS A TECHNIQUE FOR COMMENTING IN A SORT OF QTE STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS UNQTE FASHION ON MATTERS ON HIS MIND. THE FOREGOING THOUGHTS WERE IN THIS VEIN. WHILE THE DETAILS MAY CHANGE, IT SEEMS CLEAR AT THIS POINT THAT HE IS MAKING AS CERTAIN AS HE CAN THAT THE ELECTIONS WILL POSE NO SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO HIS REGIME. NEWSOM

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